

Easterton Parish Council Meeting Monday 4th October 2021 7.30 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Cllr Chris Saunders (CS) (Chair), Cllr Ben Myerscough (BM) (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Anthony Snook (AS), Cllr Judy Boyt (JB) Cllr Richard Brooks (RB) and Cllr Andy Colley (AC). In attendance: Gill Tatum Parish Clerk, 3 Parishioners. The meeting started at 7.30pm.

- 1 **Absence apologies and Declaration of interests** Members are bound by the provisions of the Code of Conduct and are required to declare either personal or prejudicial interests; Apologies: Wiltshire Councillor Dominic Muns.
- 2 **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 9th August 2021.** The minutes were agreed by all Councillors present and signed on behalf of the Council by the Chair as a true record.
- 3 **Adjournment for Open Meeting;**
3 Parishioners present, no questions.

11 Environmental Issues (item brought forward to allow Ron Crook (Easterton Flood Working Group to speak)

(i) Easterton Flood Catchment Assessment report and update; Cllr CS motion to “ring fence some funding to process the understanding of options for next steps”

Ron Crook (RC), on behalf of Easterton Flood Working Group talked through the “Easterton Parish Natural Catchment Management Scheme Report”, looking at flood mitigation through land management. This report by Dr Stone (funded by the Environment Agency) needs now to engage with our local landowners/farmers to help them understand the opportunities especially with the change in Land Subsidies and the introduction of ELMS (Environmental Land Management Schemes) for farms early in 2022. Ron Crook has identified FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory group) who can advise on grant applications and funding and Dr Stone who can advise on technical opportunities and solutions to mitigate flooding in the Village and the question for the Parish Council is what is the next step to take this forward?

Cllr CS confirmed PC support in principle and long discussion then took place on the way/approach to engage landowners/farmers and follow up next steps.

Action: Clerk to draft covering letter (supported by RC) that can be sent out, along with a copy of the report to the identified landowners/farmers in Easterton that can help mitigate flooding in the area. Cllrs AS/RB/BM will then help immediate follow up and engagement. In the longer term, once support in principle the PC will commit to financially back the necessary next stage such as meeting with Dr Stone & FWAG to progress this. All noted the timetable for the new subsidy arrangements are still protracted and this may influence when the next stage takes place but PC will “seed fund” as flood prevention is an important outcome for the Village.

Clerk

Cllrs RB,AS
& BM

Planning – to gain Statutory View of the Parish Council as Consultee

1. PL/2021/08645 Application Type: Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. Proposal: Ash tree (T3) – fell Site Address: WILLOUGHBY, 15 WHITE STREET, EASTERTON, DEVIZES, SN10 4NZ. Resolved “No objections”.

Action: Clerk to notify Wiltshire Council

Clerk

2. PL/2021/08451, Walnut Cottage, High Street, Eastcott, SN10 4PJ, House alterations and extension and replacement of outbuilding with ancillary annexe. After some discussion and consideration of the plans Cllrs resolved "object to the planning application reference PL/2021/08451 Walnut Cottage, High Street, Eastcott, SN10 4PJ, House alterations and extension and replacement of outbuilding with ancillary annexe. Councillors object to the inappropriate scale and design for the extension to the house; the ridge height is excessive and higher than the existing house and out of scale. The current proposal will have a detrimental visual impact. It is recommended that the proposed roof extension should not exceed the existing roof line. The proposed annex should be confined to non-commercial ancillary accommodation". Action: Clerk to notify Wiltshire Council

Clerk

3. Honeywood Stables , Stable Cottage Oak Lane Easterton SN10 4PX : Consultation - PL/2021/06748 – Re-consultation only to clarify proposal; Removal of condition 2 on Permission 14/01332/FUL on Stable Cottage to enable unrestricted C3 use as a residential dwelling. It was noted that the Applicant had submitted further information to the Parish Council (as she was unable to attend the meeting), all Cllrs were aware of this. Resolved “No changes to the original comments sent to Wiltshire Council”.

4. Past Planning; Strawberry Fields (update application submitted covering drainage outfall proposals & Salt bin update); Cllr CS reported GreenSquare Group (GSG) have completed the concrete outfall but no defensive works for the stream and Tim Bircher (GSG) will follow this up. The Salt Bin had previously been agreed to be placed at the top of the slope at strawberry fields entrance and now was awaiting confirmation so this can be purchased really for the winter weather. **Land at New Side Farm;** Clerk reported back from Wiltshire Council Planning Officer; the assessment of the application is ongoing. The Principle of the proposed change of use aligns with Core Policy 48 “Supporting Rural Life” of the Wiltshire Core Strategy; however the associated runway is an integral part of the business operating from the building. As Such, and whilst the runway falls outside the scope of this current application, the applicant has been asked to liaise with the Council’s Countryside and Rights of Way team due to the conflict with the public right of way. The Area Countryside and Rights of Way had a site meeting with the applicant and the planning department is now awaiting feedback with their recommendation so that the application can be progressed.

5 Governance and Procedures

- (i) **Parish Councillor Vacancy;** ongoing – anyone interested please contact the Chair or Clerk for further information.
- (ii) **Training feedback; Councillor Fundamentals** - Cllr AC, unfortunately unable to attend. Clerk reported back on-line training she had attended and clarified regarding GDPR requirements and use of protecting parishioner email addresses which are already being done to ensure compliance.

6 Correspondence & Communication

- (i) **Parishioner comment regarding nettle management Eastcott;** Clerk reported question from Parishioner regarding verge cutting for Eastcott Common & lack of cutting, despite the Wiltshire Council mowing policy and had been in touch with Cllr Dominic Muns (DM) & Cllr AS. This had been chased up by Cllr DM & Cllr AC was able to report that the mowing had actually taken place today (4/10/21). Thanks were expressed to Cllr DM for helping chase this and understand why it had been left of the list (the feedback was the task had been delegated to 2 Departments and got mislaid between them).
- (ii) **Royal British Legion Industries;** £30 donation agreed unanimously for Remembrance Wreath no interest in permanent memorial at this time. **Action:** Clerk to issue Cheque
- (iii) **Thank you Citizens Advice Bureau for donation;** noted.
- (iv) **Prescription Consultation;** Gov. proposals to change upper age of exemptions for prescription charges from 60-66 aligning with state pension age. Noted.
- (v) **Wiltshire Climate Strategy and Natural Environment Plan (NEP) Wiltshire Council Consultation;** Cllr JB outlined the Consultation on the Draft Climate Strategy and “Our Natural Environment Plan” (NEP) giving our parishioners, businesses and local groups in the Parish (and across the County) the opportunity to have a say. It covers seven delivery themes; transport built environment, waste, green economy, energy generation, natural environment, food and farming and carbon neutral council. It will shape the next five years of the council’s fight against climate change. At the same time they are consulting on the NEP – a green and blue infrastructure (GBI) Strategy for Wiltshire, which looks at the future for Wiltshire’s natural environmental assets and how the council can help protect and enhance them for the benefit of people and diversity. Cllr JB distributed the survey to Cllrs and asked to get a collative Parish Council response as well as individual response (Wiltshire Cllr DM also had highlighted this request). Cllr JB also ran through some suggested projects Easterton could undertake; joint solar panels, electric charging points, green wildlife corridors, insulation requirements. Several other areas in the UK were highlighted for innovative projects such as “North of the Tyne”. **It was decided that this is so important that the next Parish Council meeting will focus solely on Climate Change and potential project/response (in addition to any other urgent matters only).**

Clerk

Cllr
JB/Clerk

Action: Clerk to diary and Cllr JB will draft up discussion document

- (vi) **Queens Jubilee beacon participation invitation;** it was noted Market Lavington have undertaken in the past and we would encourage Easterton Parishioners to support them if they undertake to have a beacon.
- (vii) **boomCast;** Cllr AS now is in contact with the owner of the system. Volunteers

Victoria and Jonathon Turner have GBPR clearance already and it was agreed will kindly undertake any updating of the database as required to aid Cllr AS. Costs were discussed and in view of the higher cost of SMS messages, these will only be used to specific identified users (where no email address and/or errors in the past). It was agreed a vital communication tool and more money could be allocated for additional messages if required during the financial year.

Clerk

(viii) **Electronic Echoes** – Cllr JB reported latest copy had been sent out, still looking for more information from Cllrs and Parishioners as always to go into the newsletter, such as activities from societies and local organisations.

7 **Easterton Burial Ground, Drove Lane**

(i) **Graves maintenance update;** Not yet done. (Updated post meeting now been carried out by Parish Gardener).

8 **Finance Update**

(i) **Bank Reconciliation August 2021 & new financial year budget update; FO reported balance at 01/09/2021 £26,253.38 with 2 unrepresented cheques. FO working with financial sub-group to produce forecasting by quarter expenditure to allow closer monitoring of spend for the Parish. VAT reclaim submitted (HMRC still running behind due to staff re-deployed to furlough duties), and the final precept installment has now be received.**

(ii) **Cheques ratified/signed; Ch. No. 1789 Citizens Advice £50, Ch. No. 1790 £38.93 Cllr JB training, Ch. No. 1791 £180 Website hosting, Ch. No. 1792 £29.26 Clerk Expenses, Ch. No. 1793 £100 Easterton Raffle, Ch. No. 1794 £36 WALC Cllr AC training, Ch. No. 1795 £450 defib. (transfer to savings account). Donation for Remembrance British Legion Wreath £30 and Ch. No. 1798 £469.71 Parish Gardener.**

9 **Projects and Activities Updates**

(i) **Feedback from Litter Pick;** Very wet day but good turnout, only one bag of litter overall collected.

(ii) **Easterton Community Fibre Partnership Update;** Cllr AC reported that he is going to speaking to Open Reach for the next stage with 50 householders distribution list, he listed the post codes to be involved; SN10 4PJ, 4PQ, 4PG, 4PH, 4PL, 4PT, 4PS and 4BB. In this initial stage to demonstrate it can be achieved. **Action; Cllr AC to continue to next stage for 50 householders.**

Cllr AC

(iii) **Container behind Bus Shelter;** one option £1,163 plus delivery (but same size as existing container), another option £2,000 6ft container, however can this be located in the space with the clothes donation tank (this itself is redundant as the charity is no longer trading). **Action; Clerk to contact new charity to see if they will adopt the container or remove it, Cllr CS to evaluate options again to see what size is required and report back.**

Clerk/Cllr
CS

(iv) **Proposed Defibrillator Training;** 7.30pm, 20th October, Easterton Village Hall (holding jointly with North Newnton Parish Council), Clerk has 2 parishioners so far from Easterton, Cllr JB to promote to sewing club. Anyone wishing to come please contact the Clerk mob 07979866387 or clerk.easterton.pc@gmail.com

(v) **Movement of Salt Bin, Oak Lane;** Cllrs BM & AS had been to look at request to

moving it from outside the entrance to Kestrels (to allow wall maintenance) however there is no immediate alternative location. It was agreed to seek to keep here for this winter and move when required to allow wall maintenance to take place.

10 Highways and Byways Issues

- (i) **A360 /C20 Black Dog Crossroads report; update from Cllr DM read out by Clerk;** The Highways Department has now issued Atkins the contracted surveyors to put together a project proposal based on the feedback of all surrounding PCs. Once the proposal has been finalised it will go towards Cabinet and I hope the work can progress (it has good support from Cllr McClelland, Cabinet member for Highways). Realign the Broadway and Worton junctions to improve sightlines, Move hedgerows and fence-lines by purchasing some land from private landowners, Reduce the speed on A360, Improve signage, road surface treatments and other visible indicators of the dangers. All mirrors Cllr JB's suggestions, so all fully support.
- (ii) **Speed Awareness, traffic speed restriction Kings Road/High Street update;** the metro count has recently been undertaken on Kings Road and we await the results (although the unusual position was noted on the speed bump despite the explicit request and provision of a post for it to be mounted). **Action: Await speed survey results.**
- (iii) **Eastcott/Easterton Rights of Way update;** Cllr RB had spoken with Wiltshire Rights of Way who have agreed to pay for the diversion costs of footpath 17 and once the correct application form received Cllr RB will help landowners complete the forms. 2 stile kits have been delivered; still waiting for the remaining 4 then these can be erected alongside the publication of the proposed diversion route in the next Echoes/Website. A Parishioner has asked about the diversion and Cllr RB has offered to walk her through the proposed diversion route. Cllr BM has way markers but those saying "permissive route" are also required (as the new path will remain permissive in status until the formal legal diversion has taken place which may take several years).
- (iv) **Parish Gardener (PG);** Cllr AS reported that work is up to date, and he had asked the PG to concentrate more work on the sides of Parish footpaths (our agreed specification may need reviewing next year if we cannot succeed with landowners taking on responsibility for path maintenance especially from overgrowing hedges and vegetation at height). The Clerk had sent out letters to landowners in response to paths East 6 and East 21 and although a little work has been undertaken by landowners more is still required. In places hedges are over 8ft high and need cutting back significantly. **Action; Cllr AS will follow up with landowners and ask Clerk to issue further letters for another reminder as required.**
- (v) **Parish Steward (PS) update;** PS has cleaned the road signs at Eastcott Common and carried out good work again for the Parish. It was suggested if there was any award from the Council we could nominate him for, it was agreed to give him a

Cllr
AS/Clerk

Christmas gift to thank him for all the work he has undertaken for us so willingly.

10 **Environmental Issues**

(i) **First item see page 1**

(ii) **Letters written to Landlords to request maintenance to overgrown adjacent rights of way EAST 6 and EAST 21 – see 9V**

(iii) **Streams/Drains update**; it was reported despite the recent storms and heavy rainfall all were flowing satisfactorily.

(iv) **Emergency Plan**; Cllr CS will liaise with Ron Crook to update contact list within the Plan **Cllr CS**

11 **Next Meeting**

Monday 25th October at 7.30pm Village Hall Special meeting to concentrate on Wiltshire Climate Strategy and how we at Easterton can support with local projects.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm. Signed as approved: Chairman
Chairman Dated: 2021